

SLE

calls a weaver's shuttle or reed a *stay*. To *stay* is to part a twist into single fibres.]

I on a fountain light,
Whose brim with pinks was platted,
The banks with daffodills dighe,
With grass like *leave* was matted. *Drayton's Cynthia.*

SLEAZY. *adj.* [often written *seazy*.] Weak; wanting substance. This seems to be of the same race with *leave*, or from to *stay*.

SLED. *n. f.* [*sled*, Danish; *slede*, Dutch.] A carriage drawn without wheels.

The sled, the tumbril, hurdles, and the sail,
These all must be prepar'd. *Dryden.*

SLEDDED. *adj.* [from *sled*.] Mounted on a sled.

So frown'd he once when in an angry parle,
He smote the *sledded* Polack on the ice. *Shakespeare.*

SLEDDER. *n. f.* [sleeg, Saxon; *sleggia*, Islandick.]

1. A large heavy hammer.

They him spying, both with greedy force,
At once upon him ran, and him beset,
With strokes of mortal steel, without remorse,
And on his shield like iron sledges bet. *Fairy Queen.*

The painful smith, with force of fervent heat,
The hardest iron soon doth mollify,
That with his heavy *sledge* he can beat,
And fashion to what he it list apply. *Spenser.*

The uphand *sledge* is used by under workmen, when the work is not of the largest, yet requires help to batter and draw it out: they use it with both their hands before them, and seldom lift their hammer higher than their head. *Mason.*

Aristotle ascribes it unto the twiftness of that motion; but it would follow that the quick stroke of a light hammer should be of greater efficacy, than any foster and more gentle striking of a great *sledge*. *Willis's Mathematical Magick.*

2. A carriage without wheels, or with very low wheels; properly a *sled*. See **SLED**.

In Lancashire, they use a sort of *sledge* made with thick wheels, to bring their marl out, drawn with one horse. *Mort.*

SLEEK. *n. f.* [*sleech*, Dutch.] Smooth; mild; glossy.

Let me have men about me that are fat,
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep a-nights. *Shakespeare.*

Envy! what dost thou say?
How eagerly ye follow my disgrace,
As if it fed ye; and how sleek and wanton
Y' appear in ev'ry thing may bring my ruin. *Shakespeare.*

Yet are the men more loose than they,
More kemb'd, and bath'd, and rub'd, and trim'd,
More sleek'd, more soft, and slacker limb'd. *Ben. Jonson.*

What time the groves were clad in green,
The fields all drest in flowers,
And that the sleek-hair'd nymphs were seen,
To seek them summer bowers. *Drayton.*

The purest pasteboard, with a sleek stone rub smooth, and as even as you can. *Peacham.*

As in gaze admiring, oft he bow'd
His turret crest, and sleek enamel'd neck,
Fawning. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Those rugged names to our like mouths grow sleek,
That would have made Quintilian stare and gasp. *Milton.*

Thy head and hair are sleek,
And then thou kemb'st the tuzzes on thy cheek. *Dryden.*

So sleek her skin, so faultless was her make,
Ev'n Juno did unwilling pleasure take
To see so fair a rival. *Dryden.*

To **SLEEK.** *v. a.* [from the adjective.]

1. To comb smooth and even.

By dead Parthenope's dear tomb,
And fair Ligea's golden comb,
Wherewith the fits on diamond rocks,
Sleeking her soft alluring locks. *Milton.*

2. To render soft, smooth, or glossy.

Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks;
Be bright and jovial 'mong your guests to night. *Shakespeare.*

She does sleek
With crumbs of bread and milk, and lies a-nights
In her neat gloves. *Ben. Jonson's Catiline.*

A sheet of well sleeked marble paper did not cast any of its distinct colours upon the wall. *Boyle.*

The persuasive rhetoric
That sleek'd his tongue, and won so much on Eve,
So little here, say lo! *Milton.*

A crulle of fragrance, form'd of burnish'd gold,
Odour divine! whose soft refreshing streams
Sleek the smooth skin, and feent the snowy limbs. *Pope.*

SLEEKLY. *adv.* [from *sleek*.] Smoothly; glossy.

Let their heads be sleekly comb'd, and their blue coats brush'd. *Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew.*

To **SLEEK.** *v. n.* [*slepan*, Gothick; *slepan*, Saxon; *sleapens*, Dutch.]

1. To take rest, by suspension of the mental powers.

I've watch'd and travell'd hard;
Some time I shall sleep out; the rest I'll whistle. *Shakespeare.*

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Where's Pede?—go you, and where you find a maid,
That ere she sleeps, hath thrice her prayers said, *Shakespeare.*

Rein up the organs of her fantasy;
Rein up the as found as careless infancy;
But those that sleep, and think not on their sins,
Pinch them, arms, legs, backs, shoulders, sides, and thins. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*

If the man be poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge. *Shakespeare.*

Sleep on now, and take your rest; behold, the hour is at hand. *Shakespeare's As You Like It.*

Peace, good reader! do not weep;
Peace! the lovers are asleep:
They, sweet turtles! folded lie,
In the last knot that love could tie. *Shakespeare's As You Like It.*

Let them sleep, let them sleep;
Till this stormy night be gone,
And the eternal morrow dawn,
Then the curtains will be drawn,
And they waken with that light. *Shakespeare's As You Like It.*

Whole day shall never sleep in night. *Shakespeare's As You Like It.*

Those who at any time sleep without dreaming, can never be convinced that their thoughts are for four hours busy without their knowing it.

2. To rest; to be motionless.

Steel, if thou turn thine edge, or cut not out the burly-bon'd clown in chimes of beef ere thou sleep in thy sheath, I beseech jove on my knees thou mayst be turned into hob-nails. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*

The giddy ship, betwixt the winds and tides,
Forc'd back and forwards, in a circle rides,
Stunn'd with the different blows; then shoots amain,
Till counterbuff'd the stops, and sleeps again. *Dryden.*

3. To live thoughtlessly.

We sleep over our happiness, and want to be roused into a quick thankful sense of it. *Atterbury.*

4. To be dead; death being a state from which man will come time awake.

If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. *1 Thess.*

A person is said to be dead to us, because we cannot raise from the grave; though he only sleeps unto God, who can raise from the chamber of death. *Aspliff's Paragon.*

5. To be inattentive; not vigilant.

Heav'n will one day open
The king's eyes, that so long have slept upon
This bold, bad man. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

6. To be unnoticed, or unattended.

You ever
Have with'd the sleeping of this business, never
Dehir'd it to be stir'd. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

SLEEP. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Repose; rest; suspension of the mental powers; slumber.

Methought I heard a voice cry sleep no more!
Macbeth doth murder sleep; the innocent sleep;
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care;
The birth of each day's life, fore labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Cold callest the spirits to succour; and therefore they cannot so well close and go together in the head, which is ever requisite to sleep. And for the same cause, pain and noise hinder sleep; and darkness furthereth sleep. *Bacon.*

Beasts that sleep in winter, as wild bears, during their sleep wax very fat, though they eat nothing.

His fasten'd hands the rudder keep,
And fix'd on heav'n, his eyes reel invading sleep. *Dryden.*

Hermes o'er his head in air appear'd,
His hat adorn'd with wings diabol'd the gods,
And in his hand the sleep compelling rod.
Infants spend the greatest part of their time in sleep, and are seldom awake but when hunger calls for the teat, or some pain forces the mind to perceive it. *Locke.*

SLEEPER. *n. f.* [from *sleep*.]

1. One who sleeps; one who is not awake.

Sound music; come my queen, take hand with me,
And rock the ground whereon these sleepers be. *Shakespeare.*

What's the business,
That such an hideous trumpet calls to parley with the
The sleepers of the house? *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

In some countries, a plant which shutteth in the night, openeth in the morning, and openeth wide at noon; the inhabitants say is a plant that sleepeth. There be sleepers now then; for almost all flowers do the like. *Bacon.*

Night is indeed the province of his reign;
Yet all his dark exploits no more contain
Than a spy taken, and a sleeper slain. *Dryden.*

He must be no great eater, drinker, nor sleeper, that will discipline his senses, and exert his mind's every worthy undertaking requires both. *2 A.*

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A lazy inactive drone.

2. That which lies dormant, or without effect.

3. Let penal laws, if they have been sleepers of long, or if grown unfit for the present time, be by wise judges confined in the execution. *Bacon.*

4. A fish. *Ainsworth.*

SLEEPY. *adj.* [from *sleep*.]

1. Drowsily; with desire to sleep.

2. Dully; lazily.

3. I rather chide to endure the wounds of those darts, which envy casteth at novelty, than to go on safely and sleepily in the easy ways of ancient mistakings. *Raleigh.*

4. Stupidly.

He would make us believe that Luther in these actions pretended to authority, forgetting what he had sleepily owned before. *Atterbury.*

SLEEPINESS. *n. f.* [from *sleepy*.] Drowsiness; disposition to sleep; inability to keep awake.

Watchfulness precedes too great sleepiness, and is the most ill boding symptom of a fever. *Arbutnot.*

SLEEPLESS. *adj.* [from *sleep*.] Wanting sleep.

The field
To labour calls us, now with sweat impos'd,
Though after sleepless night. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

While penive poets painful vigils keep,
Sleepless themselves to give their readers sleep. *Pope.*

SLEEPY. *adj.* [from *sleep*.]

1. Drowsily; disposed to sleep.

2. Not awake.

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there. Go, carry them and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

And rising hally, took a short adieu. *Dryden.*

3. Somniferous; somniferous; causing sleep.

We will give you sleepy drinks, that your senses unintelligent of our insufficiency, may, though they cannot praise us, as little accuse us. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

Let such bethink them, if the sleepy drench
Of that forgetful lake benumb not fill. *Milton.*

I slept about eight hours, and no wonder; for the physicians had mingled a sleepy potion in the wine. *Gulliver.*

SLEET. *n. f.* [perhaps from the Danish, *slet*.] A kind of smooth small hail or snow, not falling in flakes, but single particles.

Now van to van the foremost squadrons meet,
The midmost battles hasting up behind,
Who view, far off, the storm of falling sleet,
And hear their thunder rattling in the wind. *Dryden.*

Perpetual sleet and driving snow
Obscure the skies, and hang on herds below.
Huge oxen stand inclos'd in wintry walls
Of snow congeal'd. *Dryden.*

Rains would have been poured down, as the vapours became cooler; next sleet, then snow, and ice, and frost. *Obeyne.*

To **SLEET.** *v. n.* [from the noun.] To snow in small particles, intermixed with rain.

SLEEV. *adj.* [from the noun.] Bringing sleet.

SLEEVE. *n. f.* [slyp, Saxon.]

1. The part of a garment that covers the arms.

Once my well-waiting eyes esp'd my treasure,
With sleeves turn'd up, loose hair, and breast enlarged,
Her father's corn, moving her fair limbs, measure. *Sidney.*

The deep smock sleeve, which the Irish women use, they say, was old Spanish; and yet that should seem rather to be an old English fashion: for in armory, the fashion of the Manche, which is given in arms, being nothing else but a sleeve, is fashioned much like to that sleeve. And knights, in ancient times, used to wear their mistress's or love's sleeve upon their arms; fir Launcelot wore the sleeve of the fair maid of Asteloth in a tourney. *Spenser's Ireland.*

Your hose should be ungarter'd, your sleeve unbutton'd, your shoe untied, demonstrating a careless desolation. *Shakespeare.*

You would think a smock a she-angel, he so chants to the sleeve-band, and the work about the square on't. *Shakespeare.*

He was clothed in cloth, with wide sleeves and a cape. *Bacon.*

In velvet white as snow the troop was gown'd,
Their hoods and sleeves the same. *Dryden.*

2. Sleeve, in some provinces, signifies a knot or skein of silk, which is by some very probably supposed to be its meaning in the following passage. [See **SLEAVE**.]

Methought I heard a voice cry, sleep no more!
Macbeth doth murder sleep; the innocent sleep;
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care;
The birth of each day's life. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

3. Sleeve, Dutch, signifies a cover; any thing spread over; which seems to be the sense of sleeve in the proverbial phrase. A brace of sharpers laugh at the whole roguesy in their sleeves. *L'Estrange.*

Men know themselves utterly void of those qualities which the impudent sycophant ascribes to them, and in his sleeve laughs at them for believing. *Doubt's Sermon.*

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John laughed heartily in his sleeve at the pride of the esquire, *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull.*

4. To hang on a sleeve; to make dependent.

It is not for a man which doth know, or should know what orders, and what peaceable government requireth, to ask why we should hang our judgment upon the church's sleeve, and why in matters of orders more than in matters of doctrine. *Hooker.*

5. [Lallig, Latin.] A fish. *Ainsworth.*

SLEEVED. *adj.* [from *sleeve*.] Having sleeves.

SLEEVELESS. *adj.* [from *sleeve*.]

1. Wanting sleeves; having no sleeves.

His cloaths were strange, though coarse, and black, tho' bare;
Sleeveless his jerkin was, and it had been
Velvet, but 'twas now, so much ground was seen,
Become tufflaffaty. *Donne.*

They put on long sleeveless coats of home-spun cotton. *Samys.*

Behold you idle by palmers, pilgrims trod,
Grave mummers! sleeveless some, and shirtless others. *Pope.*

2. Wanting reasonableness; wanting propriety; wanting solidity. [This sense, of which the word has been long possessed, I know not well how it obtained; *Skinner* thinks it properly *liveless* or *lifeless*: to this I cannot heartily agree, though I know not what better to suggest. Can it come from *sleeves*, a knot, or *skein*, and so signify *unconnected*, hanging ill together? or from *sleeve*, a cover; and therefore means *plainly aired*; foolish without palliation?] This *sleeveless* tale of transubstantiation was brought into the world by that other fable of the multipreference. *Hall.*

My landlady quarrelled with him for sending every one of her children on a sleeveless errand, as she calls it. *Spektor.*

SLEIGHT. *n. f.* [*slegd*, cunning, Islandick.] Artful trick; cunning artifice; dexterous practice; as sleight of hand; the tricks of a juggler. This is often written, but less properly, *sight*.

He that exhorted to beware of an enemy's policy, doth not give counsel to be impolite; but rather to be all prudent foresight, lest our simplicity be over-reached by cunning sleights. *Hooker.*

Fair Una to the red cross knight
Betrothed is with joy;
Though false Duella it to bar,
Her false sleights do employ. *Fairy Queen.*

Upon the corner of the moon,
There hangs a vap'rous drop, profound;
I'll catch it ere it come to ground;
And that distill'd by magick sleights,
Shall raise such artificial sprights,
As, by the strength of their illusion
Shall draw him on to his confusion. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Out slept the ample size
Of mighty Ajax, huge in strength; to him, Laertes' son,
That crafty one as huge in sleight. *Chapman.*

She could not so convey
The mally substance of that idol great,
What sleight had she the warden to betray?
What strength to heave the goddess from her seat? *Fairf.*

In the wily snake
Whatever sleight, none would suspicious mark;
As from his wit, and native subtilty
Proceeding. *Milton.*

Doubtless the pleasure is as great
Of being cheated, as to cheat;
As lookers on feel most delight,
That least perceive the juggler's sleight. *Hudibras.*

Good humour is but a sleight of hand, or a faculty making truths look like appearances, or appearances like truths. *L'Estrange.*

When we hear death related, we are all willing to favour the sight, when the poet does not too grossly impose upon us. *Dryden.*

While innocent he scorns ignoble sight,
His honest friends preserve him by a sleight. *Swift.*

SLEINE. *n. f.* [This word is apparently misprinted for *seine*.] Is a net of about forty fathoms in length, with which they encompass a part of the sea, and draw the same on land by two ropes fastned at its ends, together with such fish as lighteth within his precinct. *Carew.*

SLENDER. *adj.* [*sliender*, Dutch.]

1. Thin; small in circumference compared with the length; not thick.

So thick the roses bushing round
About her glow'd; half-sloping to support
Each flow'r of slender stalk. *Milton.*

2. Small in the wat; having a fine shape.

What slender youth bedew'd with liquid odours,
Courts thee on roses in some pleasant cave.
Beauteous Helen shines among the rest,
Tall, slender, straight, with all the graces blest. *Dryden.*

3. Not